

REMARKS

Claims 17-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 17 is amended only to correct a minor typographical error (the spelling of "polyisocyanates" is corrected). No new matter is added.

The Office Action contains a single rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. This rejection is traversed.

The Office Action asserts that "the claim encompass hundreds of compounds belonged to various aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyisocyanates" (Office Action page 3, last full paragraph, underlining in original). However, Applicants note that the polyisocyanate component a) of claim 17 has been defined in the present specification in functional terms. In particular, component a) has been defined as an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyisocyanate, having an NCO functionality, determined by titration with dibutylamine-HCl (ASTM D2572), higher than 2.

The present inventors have found that the critical feature of polyisocyanates for their use in the present invention is a result given by the dibbutylamine-HCl assay, i.e., that the NCO titer should be higher than 2. This provides the criterion for selecting a polyisocyanate suitable for use in the preparation of the oligourethane of the presently claimed invention. This is thus what is needed by one of skill in the art to perform the presently claimed invention.

For at least the above reasons, one of skill in the art would readily be able to determine if the polyisocyanate for use as component a) is inside or outside the scope of the present claims.

Additionally, it is noted that claims 18-24 only stand objected to. Thus, as the embodiments of the present invention as defined by claims 18-24 have been determined to be enabling, Applicants note that the component a) in enabled claims 18-20 and 22-24 is the same as component a) in rejected claim 17. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the component a) in claim 17 is enabled for the same reasons that component a) is enabled in claims 18-20 and 22-24.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108910-00009. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making references to attorney docket 108910-00009.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert K. Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Carpenter" clearly distinguishable. It is written above a horizontal line.

Robert K. Carpenter
Registration No. 34,794

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

RKC/tdd